

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 13

Please delete in its entirety, paragraph [0044] as indicated below:

[0044]

~~————The present invention will now be illustrated in greater detail with reference to Examples, but it should be understood that the invention is not deemed to be limited thereto. Before entering into Examples, Preparation Examples for preparing small clusters are given.~~

Please delete in its entirety, paragraph [0045] as indicated below:

[0045]

~~————The absorbent article according to the present invention is not limited to sanitary napkins but includes panty liners, incontinence pads, and other like articles.~~